

January 28, 2019
COW2019000086

Matt Cameron
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 66420
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Sent via Email: 66420-80462024@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Matt Cameron:

Don't waste time waiting for the US Postal Service to deliver the information you requested. Go online, create an account, and receive the information electronically! Read the attached yellow flyer for more details.

We received your request for information on January 25, 2019 relating to policy memoranda, emails, or other internal communications regarding removal of "courtesy language" from USCIS denials.

Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). It has been assigned the following control number: COW2019000086. Please cite this number in all future correspondence about your request.

We respond to requests on a first-in, first-out basis and on a multi-track system. Your request has been placed in the complex track (Track 2). You specifically requested:

Any and all policy memoranda, emails, or other internal communications regarding removal of "courtesy language" from USCIS denials--specifically the expressions "we regret to inform you" and "thank you for filing."

Consistent with 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FOIA regulations, USCIS processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although USCIS' goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period in certain circumstances. Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Additionally, due to the scope and nature of your request, USCIS will need to locate, compile, and review responsive records from multiple offices, both at headquarters and in the field. USCIS may also need to consult with another agency or other component of the Department of Homeland Security that have a substantial interest in the responsive information. Due to these unusual circumstances, USCIS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). Please contact our office if you would like to limit the scope of your request or to agree on a different timetable for the processing of your request. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

In accordance with Department of Homeland Security Regulations (6 C.F.R. § 5.3(c)), your request is deemed to constitute an agreement to pay any fees that may be chargeable up to \$25.00. Fees may be charged for searching for records sought at the respective clerical, professional, and/or managerial rates of \$4.00/\$7.00/\$10.25 per quarter hour, and for duplication of copies at the rate of \$.10 per copy. The first 100 copies and two hours of search time are not charged, and the remaining combined charges for search and duplication must exceed \$14.00 before we will charge you any fees. Most requests do not require any fees; however, if fees in excess of \$25.00 are required, we will notify you beforehand.

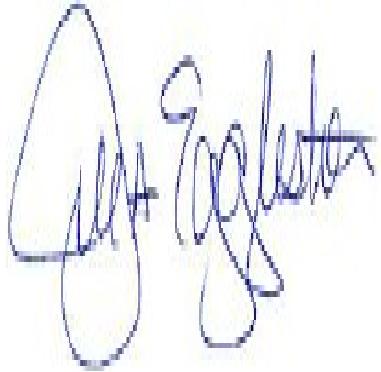
This office now offers an online delivery option. If you would like to receive the requested records online, you will need to register this request at <https://first.uscis.gov>. If you do not already have a MyUSCIS account you will be prompted to create one. Once logged on, click the "Register Request" link where you will be asked to enter your control number COW2019000086 and the following six digit PIN: 207262. If you do not wish to take advantage of this option, we will be providing your records on a Compact Disc (CD) for use on your personal computer. To request your responsive records on paper, please include your control number and write to the above address Attention: FOIA/PA Officer, or fax them to (816) 350-5785.

In the event you wish to appeal this determination, you may write to the USCIS FOIA/PA Appeals Office, 150 Space Center Loop, Suite 500, Lee's Summit, MO 64064-2139, within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

The National Records Center (NRC) has the responsibility to ensure that personally identifiable information (PII) pertaining to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) clients is protected. In our efforts to safeguard this information, we may request that additional information be provided to facilitate and correctly identify records responsive to your request. Though submission of this information is voluntary, without this information, your request may be delayed while additional steps are taken to ensure the correct responsive records are located and processed. Further, if we are unable to positively identify the subject of the record we may be unable to provide records responsive to your FOIA request.

You may check the status of your FOIA request online, at www.uscis.gov/FOIA. Click the "Check Status of Request" button in the middle of the web page or "FOIA Request Status Check & Average Processing Times" on the left side under "Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIA)." Then click "FOIA Check Status of Request" at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions given. If you have any questions concerning your pending FOIA/PA request, or to check the status of a pending application or petition, please call The National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. Please be aware that the National Records Center no longer accepts FOIA/PA related questions directly by phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink. It starts with a large, open loop on the left, followed by a series of smaller loops and strokes that form the letters "Jill". To the right of the name, there is a small, separate handwritten mark consisting of a short horizontal line with a small vertical tick or crossbar extending from its right side.

Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations